

REMARKS

Claims 2-16 are pending in this application. Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 12-14 are rewritten to be in independent form. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 15 and 16 are amended to update dependencies. Claim 1 is canceled.

No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to claims 5 and 12-14 can be found in original claim 1. Support for additional language added to claim 14 can be found throughout the specification, where it is evident that the operational advantages of the oscillation circuit are obtained from a first protection circuit, a second protection circuit or both together. See, for example, the specification at page 11, lines 11-14 and page 16, line 15 through page 17, line 10.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 5 and 12-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To this end, claims 5 and 12-14 have been amended to be in independent form.

As acknowledged by the Patent Office, claims 5 and 12-14 should now be in condition for allowance.

II. Specification Objection

The title was objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. Solely to expedite prosecution of this Application, Applicants have amended the title as suggested by the Patent Office. In particular, the amended title is "Oscillation Circuit, Electronic Apparatus And Timepiece Using A Potential Stabilization Circuit With Resistive Terminations."

Applicants submit this objection is now moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 10, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by GB 2362276 ("GB '276"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above and as acknowledged by the Patent Office, claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 14 has been amended to be in independent form and is now allowable. Claims 10, 15 and 16 have been amended to directly depend from claim 14 and are thus also allowable.

Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over GB '276 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,062 ("O'Shaughnessy"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above and as acknowledged by the Patent Office, claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 14 has been amended to be in independent form and is now allowable. Claim 11 has been amended to directly depend from claim 14 and is thus also allowable.

Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. Election of Species Requirement

Upon allowance of independent claim 14, Applicants submit that directly or indirectly dependent claims 2-4, 6-11 and 15-16 should also be allowable.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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